Appl. No.   :   **09/682,599**
Filed   :   **September 9, 2001**

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended)   An article, comprising:

a machine readable medium which stores machine executable instructions, the instructions causing a computer to:

receiving an electronic communication over a channel;

detect random information in said electronic communication that has been received over the channel; and

establish said electronic communication as possibly being an undesired electronic communication based on said detect of said random information, wherein said random information includes a plurality of random characters, and wherein said detect random characters comprises comparing a content of said electronic communication to a dictionary of words, and establishing parts within said electronic communication that are not within said dictionary as being random characters.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Original)   An article as in claim 1, wherein said random information includes a plurality of random words.

4.   (Original)   An article as in claim 1, wherein said detect random information comprises detecting specified words which include additional random information associated therewith.

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5.   (Cancelled)

6.   (Original)   An article as in claim 1, wherein said electronic communication is one of an e-mail or a web page.

7.   (Previously Presented)   An article as in claim 1, further comprising an instruction to filter said electronic communication based on said instructions to establish said electronic communication as being an undesired communication.

8.   (Currently Amended)   A method, comprising:

receiving an electronic communication;

detecting random information within said electronic communication; and

filtering said electronic communication, prior to reaching a user, responsive to said detecting;

wherein said random information includes random characters; and

.wherein said random information includes random words, and said detecting comprises comparing said electronic communication with a dictionary of words, and establishing items which do not match any parts of said dictionary as being said random information.

9.   (Original)   A method as in claim 8, wherein said filtering comprises restricting said electronic communication from reaching said user, when said detecting detects said random information within said electronic communication.

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10.   (Cancelled)

11.   (Cancelled)

12.   (Original)   A method as in claim 8, further comprising defining rules
which determine which electronic communications should be filtered, and detecting said
electronic communications based on said rules.

13.   (Currently amended)   An article, comprising:

a machine readable medium which stores machine-executable instructions, the
instructions causing a machine to:

process electronic communications which have been received over a channel
according to rules which define characteristics of said electronic communications which
will be filtered prior to reaching the user; and

establishing said electronic communication as being ones which will be filtered
when content of electronic communication matches said rules by a specified amount
less than 100%, wherein said establishing comprises establishing said electronic
communication as being a spam communication.

14.   (Original)   An article as in claim 13, wherein said instructions to
establish include instructions to determine a random content within said electronic
communication in addition to a content defined by said rules.

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15. (Previously Presented) An article as in claim 13, wherein said establishing establishes the communication as one to be filtered when the content matches by 80-90% percent or more.

16. (Original) An article as in claim 14, wherein said random content is determined by comparing said content with a database.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~An article as in claim 1,~~ An article, comprising:

a machine readable medium which stores machine executable instructions, the instructions causing a computer to:

receiving an electronic communication over a channel;

detect random information in said electronic communication that has been received over the channel; and

establish said electronic communication as possibly being an undesired electronic communication based on said detect of said random information; and

wherein said establish communication comprises establishing the electronic communication as being a spam communication.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A method as in claim 8,~~ A method, comprising:

receiving an electronic communication;

detecting random information within said electronic communication; and

filtering said electronic communication, prior to reaching a user, responsive to said detecting;

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wherein said filtering comprises filtering said electronic communication as a

spam communication responsive to said detecting.

19.   (cancelled).

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